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**Environmental Advisory Council**  
**Tuesday, February 26, 2013**

The regular meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council was held on the above date for the transaction of general business.

EAC members present –D. Beane, P. Ignozzi-Shaffer, B. Jennings

Others present – S. Katzenmoyer, D. Hoag, K. Keppen

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Beane called the meeting to order at 5:10 pm.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

**MINUTES**

**Motion was made by Ms. Ignozzi-Shaffer, seconded by Dr. Jennings, to approve the January 26, 2013 meeting summary as written. Motion carried unanimously.**

**REORGANIZATION**

Mr. Beane stated that he is willing to remain chair but that a vice chair is needed.

Dr. Jennings stated that he is unsure if he will be remaining as a member of the EAC and stated that he would prefer not holding office at this time.

Ms. Ignozzi-Shaffer noted her willingness to serve as vice chair.

**Motion was made by Dr. Jennings, seconded by Ms. Ignozzi-Shaffer, to elect David Beane as chair and Ms. Ignozzi-Shaffer as vice chair. Motion carried unanimously.**

**RAIN BARREL EDUCATION**

Mr. Beane stated that he hosted the January BCTV show with Kate Keppen from the Conservation District. He stated that this was a kick-off to the educational

component of the rain barrel regulations and stated that workshops should be scheduled. He questioned the best approach.

Ms. Keppen stated that she will leave the logistics up to the EAC as they know the City better. She stated that she is willing to assist as needed and will provide education at the workshop. She stated that she will also assist with advertising and outreach. She noted the need for the EAC to determine if rain barrels will be available for sale the day of the program.

Ms. Hoag suggested that a message about the workshop appear on water bills to inform residents. She also suggested it be placed on the City's website.

Mr. Beane suggested holding the first workshop in College Heights or the Hessian Camp area.

Ms. Keppen suggested that one workshop be scheduled to see how it goes before plans are made for multiple workshops.

Ms. Ignozzi-Shaffer questioned if the regulations allow residents to build their own rain barrel or if they must purchase a prefabricated system. Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that they may build them but to specific parameters.

Ms. Ignozzi-Shaffer questioned how long the workshop would last. Ms. Keppen stated that it would be 45 minutes to one hour.

Ms. Ignozzi-Shaffer questioned if materials would be bi-lingual. Dr. Jennings stated that he can translate materials.

Mr. Beane questioned translating the legislation. Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that no ordinances are translated.

Ms. Ignozzi-Shaffer questioned advertising. Ms. Keppen stated that the Conservancy advertises in the Reading Eagle Country insert.

Ms. Hoag stated that if the workshop is held in College Heights that it may be wise to also invite Muhlenberg and Alsace Townships. Mr. Beane stated that this may increase attendance and the Conservation District is a County entity. But he noted that the workshop will be geared to Reading regulations.

Ms. Ignozzi-Shaffer suggested holding a future workshop in the Centre Park area.

Dr. Jennings questioned regulations for the historic district in College Heights and in Centre Park. Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that the regulations have provisions for historic districts.

Ms. Keppen stated that it is already too late for her to schedule time this spring. Mr. Beane noted that Ms. Keppen's presence is necessary for the workshop to be successful.

Dr. Jennings questioned the material covered during the workshop. Ms. Keppen stated that she reviews what rain barrels are, their benefits, how to maintain them, and the regulations in place.

Dr. Jennings suggested having the first workshop at the Albright garden. He stated that they already have several operational rain barrels set up there.

Mr. Beane suggested holding the workshop before mid June.

Dr. Jennings suggested that the workshop be advertised through the College Heights Community Council newsletter. He stated that there can be Albright interns available during the workshop to demonstrate the rain barrels and answer questions.

The EAC will schedule the first workshop on Saturday, June 8 at 9 am at the Albright garden. Dr. Jennings will contact Albright and confirm the location.

Ms. Keppen questioned if attendees would have the option to purchase the Conservation District barrels.

Ms. Ignozzi-Shaffer questioned sponsors for the workshop to provide refreshments.

Ms. Ignozzi-Shaffer noted the need for one central RSVP location. Ms. Katzenmoyer suggested that RSVPs be sent to her by phone or email.

Ms. Hoag suggested that the Water Authority may consider sponsorship since they are currently working on conservation efforts at Lake Ontelaunee.

Mr. Beane suggested continuing to work together to plan the workshop.

Ms. Keppen questioned if there would be a cost to attend the workshop. Mr. Beane stated that it would be free to attend.

Ms. Keppen suggested holding more workshops in 2014.

Dr. Jennings stated that Albright was awarded a grant to work with 13<sup>th</sup> & Union Elementary School. Members suggested that flyers sent home from school to parents would increase attendance at the workshop. Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that flyers distributed through school need the approval of the District Superintendent.

Ms. Keppen expressed her thanks to the EAC for their work. She stated that the County is losing EACs and offered her assistance for future projects.

Ms. Hoag stated that the Girl Scout Brownie program has a Journey called "Wonders of Water". She suggested that the EAC reach out to Kathy Ganter to see if the workshop would interest any troops along their Journey.

Dr. Jennings questioned if there was an attendance limit for the workshop. Ms. Keppen suggested that it be limited to the first 50 respondents. She stated that in the past she has never had more than 20 – 25 in attendance.

Ms. Keppen stated that there are many organizations willing to help EACs.

Ms. Ignozzi-Shaffer stated that Trout Unlimited has been awarded a grant called "Trout in the Classroom" and suggested the program to RHS and Northeast Middle School. She stated that the 13<sup>th</sup> & Union Elementary is also a good idea since they are already working with Albright. Ms. Katzenmoyer reminded the EAC that middle school is grades 6 and 7 and that the intermediate high school (the Citadel) is grades 8 and 9 before the students attend RHS. She stated that teachers must be careful of how they spend their classroom time as they concentrate on items included in the PSSA and Keystone Exams.

## **FLUORIDE IN DRINKING WATER**

Mr. Beane stated that he permitted Mr. Molteni to present additional information before the EAC made its final determination on this issue. He stated that the only additional information he received was the link to the "Fluoridegate" video.

There was a discussion about fluoride in bottled water.

Mr. Beane stated that this issue will be tabled until Mr. Molteni has had a chance to present his information.

### **BERNHART PARK**

Ms. Hoag noted the need to memorialize Exide's agreement to mow the grass for the 2013 season.

### **BCTV PROGRAM**

Mr. Beane stated that the EAC's next program is March 28. He asked for suggestions.

Ms. Katzenmoyer suggested that Mr. Molteni speak about the 2013 Earth Day. She stated that he has done this in the past. Ms. Ignozzi-Shaffer stated that Mr. Molteni is no longer on the Earth Day Committee. She stated that she will speak with the Committee to see if they are willing to appear.

Dr. Jennings stated that he can have seniors speak about their seminar projects.

Mr. Beane suggested that both topics be discussed.

### **ALTERNATIVE ENERGY ORDINANCE**

Mr. Beane stated that he has reviewed the draft. He stated that it is a great first draft but that a meeting with Ms. Katzenmoyer and Ms. Hoag is needed. He stated that after this meeting, Ms. Katzenmoyer and Ms. Hoag can have the ordinance reviewed at a one stop shop to get input from the building trades.

Ms. Ignozzi-Shaffer stated that she has already received comments from HARB.

Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that she will also need to put the ordinance into proper format.

Mr. Beane stated that he would like the regulations reviewed by Mr. Vitale as he has had first-hand experience with the issues. Ms. Ignozzi-Shaffer stated that she has spoken with Mr. Vitale and he is willing to review the ordinance.

Mr. Beane suggested that the next Committee meeting be scheduled within a week.

Ms. Ignozzi-Shaffer stated that she is also reaching out to others who have experience with these items in an urban setting.

### **NEXT MEETING**

Mr. Beane announced that the next meeting will be devoted to the Waste to Energy initiative. He stated that he will contact Mr. Murin from the Mayor's office to schedule the presentation. He stated that after the presentation, the EAC will analyze the project.

Ms. Hoag questioned if other firms would be able to make presentations.

Dr. Jennings stated that he is not interested in snake oil or smoke and mirrors.

Ms. Hoag stated that many municipalities receive grants for these types of projects but that they are not implemented.

Mr. Beane stated that the EAC will be looking at environmental impact.

Dr. Jennings questioned why this company has chosen Reading for a project. He noted his skepticism about the project.

Mr. Beane stated that the Mayor's Sustainability Committee is not looking at the feasibility of the project. He stated that they also have not looked at the impact of the project or examine the environmental issues.

Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that the last Mayor's Report to Council indicated that the Mayor's office is moving forward with an RFP for this project.

### **SMART GROWTH ALLIANCE**

Ms. Ignozzi-Shaffer distributed minutes from the last meeting to be included with the record of this meeting.

### **2013 EARTH DAY**

Ms. Ignozzi-Shaffer stated that she will contact the Committee.

Mr. Beane stated that the EAC would like to participate.

## **JEFFERSON YOUTH SERVICE AWARDS**

Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that Mr. Beane suggested that Mr. Wood and Mr. Agnes be nominated. She will complete the necessary forms.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council will be held on Tuesday, March 26 at 5 pm in the Council office.

Respectfully submitted by  
*Shelly Katzenmoyer*  
Deputy City Clerk